

REMARKS

Claims 10-14 have been cancelled, claim 15 has been amended to include the limitation that was recited in dependent claims 19, 20, and 21, and claims 19, 20, and 21 have been cancelled. Claim 15 has also been amended to include the limitations that were proposed in informal proposals to the Examiner after Final rejection, plus a still further limitation reciting that the recited group of lines is a vertically adjacent group of lines. [The Amendment After Final was not officially entered (as noted in the Advisory Action dated November 17, 2005) and Applicant's two informal proposals were also not entered. However, Applicant thanks the Examiner for time spent in considering these submissions and discussing same with the undersigned Counsel.]

The present further amendments of independent claim 15 are believed to provide the additional definition that the Examiner wants in order to distinguish over the citations of record. For each color (R, G and B), the claim now recites that the register for that color has connected thereto "red (or green or blue, as the case may be) pixels, diagonally offset in alternating directions, for successive vertically adjacent lines of a group of lines." This language is supported by Figure 5 of Applicant's specification which clearly shows that each color has an associated register, and that, for each color, the pixels connected to the associated register are diagonally offset in alternating directions for successive vertically adjacent lines of a group of lines.

The Office Action acknowledges that the primary citation, Kawahara U.S. Patent

4,758,883, does not disclose the claim limitation that the means for producing electronic video signals from the output of the sensor includes the elements summarized above, but argues that this feature is obvious over the teachings of the Uchiyama et al. U.S. Patent 5,194,944. This argument is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested.

Uchiyama et al. discloses an image signal processing apparatus that has a vertical register for storing and transferring color signals, and a horizontal register for receiving color signals transferred from the vertical register. Figures 3 and 4 of Uchiyama illustrate these registers and their operation.

An analysis of the operation of Uchiyama and its registers reveals that they operate to produce B, R, and G signals from image sensing areas and image storage areas using conventional frame transfer CCDs in a conventional cardinally arranged sequence, and there is no disclosure whatsoever in Uchiyama relating to diagonally offset color pixels or how they would be selected for read-out into registers, as is shown in Figure 5 of Applicant's specification and set forth in the amended claims. Further, Applicant respectfully asks: Why would one skilled in the art seek to use the scheme of Uchiyama with the sensor of Kawahara et al., in the absence of Applicant's teachings and hindsight? Still further, the arrangement of Uchiyama, connected with the sensor of Kawahara, would still not give Applicant's claimed apparatus, as the wrong pixels would be coupled to the wrong register taps. The only incentive for modifying the registers of Uchiyama to a diagonally oriented arrangement would come from

Applicant's own teachings, and this is certainly not a proper basis for a conclusion of obviousness. Accordingly, the patentability of the amended claims is evident.


In the event the Examiner is still inclined to sustain the rejection, the Examiner is respectfully asked to show specifically how the combination of Kawahara et al. and Uchiyama et al. discloses or suggests the claimed invention. If the Examiner finds this difficult or impossible to do, the Examiner is respectfully asked to reconsider the premise that the combination of citations renders the invention obvious, and to provide the allowance that should necessarily follow.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the Application is now in condition for allowance, and such favorable action is earnestly solicited. In the event that the Examiner is not persuaded, it is asked that he kindly telephone the undersigned Counsel collect so that any remaining issues can be resolved.

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Respectfully submitted,



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